

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 493, As Amended in the Senate

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1620, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR A MASTERY ADVANCEMENT PILOT PROGRAM; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1621, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1622, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN ASSESSMENTS; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1623, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR A MASTERY ADVANCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP, TO PROVIDE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS, TO PROVIDE FOR CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT OR ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES, TO PROVIDE PROVISIONS RELATING TO A CERTAIN SCHOLARSHIP, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN REPORTS, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN SAVINGS, TO PROVIDE FOR REPORTS AND TO DIRECT COLLABORATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1624, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR RULES; AND PROVIDING A SUNSET DATE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the Legislature to provide a variety of avenues to help Idaho students succeed in school. The Legislature's duty to maintain a thorough system of public schools is only strengthened by employing new and innovative approaches to help ensure that more young people successfully complete grades 1-12 curriculum prepared for good-paying careers, postsecondary educational success or both. Idaho's economic future rests on the ability of an educated workforce to excel in today's complex and demanding workplace. To help ensure student success, the Legislature believes that a Pilot Program, a revenue neutral Pilot Program, designed to permit students to successfully complete school curriculum at their own accelerated pace, is warranted to study the efficacy of such an approach.

SECTION 2. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 33-1620, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-1620. MASTERY ADVANCEMENT PILOT PROGRAM. There is hereby established a pilot project to be known as the "Mastery Advancement Pilot Program," hereinafter referred to as "the program." This program shall permit certain students in certain Idaho public schools, including Idaho public charter schools, to successfully proceed through school curriculum at their own pace.

1 SECTION 3. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
2 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
3 ignated as Section 33-1621, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

4 33-1621. PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS. (1) No more than twenty-one (21)
5 school districts and no more than three (3) charter schools may participate
6 in the program. Participating districts shall be determined through an
7 application process established by the state department of education.

8 (2) The program shall be divided into three (3) geographical regions of
9 the state in the following manner:

10 (a) Region I shall be comprised of Idaho high school activities associ-
11 ation regions I and II;

12 (b) Region II shall be comprised of Idaho high school activities asso-
13 ciation region III; and

14 (c) Region III shall be comprised of Idaho high school activities asso-
15 ciation regions IV, V and VI.

16 (3) Participating school districts shall reflect the disparate sizes
17 of school districts within this state. Participating school districts shall
18 be selected in the following manner:

19 (a) Any school district and any charter school desiring to participate
20 in the program shall submit an application to the state department of
21 education by September 1, 2010. Such application shall be developed
22 by the state department of education and shall be made available to the
23 state's school districts and charter schools by July 15, 2010. From the
24 applicants, the department shall select:

25 (i) Three (3) school districts, one (1) from each program re-
26 gion, that have grades 1-12 enrollment of more than seven thousand
27 (7,000) students;

28 (ii) Six (6) school districts, two (2) from each program region,
29 that have grades 1-12 enrollment of between four thousand (4,000)
30 and six thousand nine hundred ninety-nine (6,999) students;

31 (iii) Six (6) school districts, two (2) from each program region,
32 that have grades 1-12 enrollment of between one thousand (1,000)
33 and three thousand nine hundred ninety-nine (3,999) students;

34 (iv) Six (6) school districts, two (2) from each program region,
35 that have grades 1-12 enrollment of less than one thousand (1,000)
36 students; and

37 (v) Three (3) charter schools, one (1) from each program region.

38 (b) The state department of education shall notify selected program ap-
39 plicants by December 1, 2010.

40 (c) School districts and charter schools selected for the program will
41 be expected to participate for the full six (6) years of the program.
42 Provided however, that any school district or charter school selected
43 for the program may request to the state department of education to opt
44 out of the program. The department may grant such request at its discre-
45 tion.

46 (4) No participating school district shall be required to implement the
47 program on a districtwide basis. It shall be left to the discretion of each
48 participating district to determine which schools in the district shall par-
49 ticipate.

1 SECTION 4. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
2 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
3 ignated as Section 33-1622, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

4 33-1622. PROGRAM ASSESSMENT -- STUDENT ASSESSMENT.

5 (1) (a) Every school district and charter school participating in
6 the program shall measure student performance and achievement while
7 such district and charter school is participating in the program.
8 Such performance and achievement measures shall include, but shall
9 not necessarily be limited to, standardized test scores, successful
10 completion of courses, behavioral and/or disciplinary incidents and
11 dropout rates. The performance and achievement measures provided
12 for in this subsection shall be reported to the state department of
13 education every June 30 during the life of the program.

14 (b) Relating to the program provided for in this act, the state
15 department of education is hereby directed to identify and adopt
16 end-of-course assessments for all core topic areas for grades 7-12
17 curriculum and appropriate benchmarks for grades 1-6. Such assessments
18 shall be developed during the life of the pilot program.

19 (2) (a) Students may request to take an end-of-course assessment. Such
20 request shall be made upon a form provided by the state department of ed-
21 ucation. The student's request shall be made pursuant to collaboration
22 between the student, the student's teachers, the school administration
23 and the student's parents or guardians.

24 (b) The student shall score no less than eighty-five percent (85%) on
25 the end-of-course assessment in order to participate in self-directed
26 study that allows the student to work on completing a class or year of
27 school at an accelerated pace.

28 (c) (i) When a student enrolled in grades 7-12 successfully passes an
29 end-of-course assessment as provided for in subsection (2) (b) of
30 this section, the student shall be counted as having completed all
31 required coursework for that course and the school may be funded
32 for such student based upon either the actual hours of atten-
33 dance or the course which such student has successfully passed,
34 whichever is more advantageous to the school, up to the maximum of
35 one (1) full-time equivalent student.

36 (ii) When a student enrolled in grades 1-6 successfully completes
37 a benchmark as provided for in subsection (1) (b) of this section,
38 then the student shall be counted as having completed all required
39 coursework for that grade and the school may be funded for such
40 student, based upon either the actual hours of attendance or the
41 grade which such student has successfully passed, whichever is
42 more advantageous to the school, up to the maximum of one (1)
43 full-time equivalent student.

44 SECTION 5. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
45 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
46 ignated as Section 33-1623, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

47 33-1623. STUDENT ADVANCEMENT -- CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT -- EARLY GRAD-
48 UATION -- MASTERY ADVANCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP -- RESIDUAL SAVINGS. (1) Any

1 student who successfully completes a school district's grades 1-12 curricu-
 2 lum at least one (1) year early shall be eligible for a mastery advancement
 3 scholarship if such student can show that the student has met all of the
 4 graduation requirements of the school district in which the student attends
 5 school; and

6 (a) The student has completed the grades 1-12 curriculum in eleven (11)
 7 or fewer years and such student has attended schools in the Idaho public
 8 school system for the entire grades 1-12 curriculum; or

9 (b) Where the student has attended Idaho public schools for less than
 10 the entire grades 1-12 curriculum, such student shall be eligible for
 11 a mastery advancement scholarship if such student has attended Idaho
 12 public schools for a minimum of four (4) years. For students who have
 13 attended Idaho public schools for less than four (4) years and who have
 14 completed all graduation requirements, such students may be eligible
 15 to receive a mastery advancement scholarship at a reduced rate not to
 16 exceed one (1) semester of scholarship for each year of Idaho public
 17 school attendance.

18 (2) A student is not required to graduate early and can choose to par-
 19 ticipate in concurrent enrollment or advanced placement classes as is the
 20 current practice.

21 (3) (a) If a student requests a mastery advancement scholarship and is
 22 eligible pursuant to the provisions of subsection (1) (a) and (1) (b) of
 23 this section, the student shall be entitled to a mastery advancement
 24 scholarship which may be used for tuition and fees at any publicly
 25 funded institution of higher education in Idaho. The amount of such
 26 scholarship shall equal thirty-five percent (35%) of the statewide av-
 27 erage daily attendance-driven funding per enrolled pupil for each year
 28 of grades 1-12 curriculum the student avoids due to early graduation.
 29 Such school district or charter school shall receive an amount equal to
 30 each such scholarship.

31 (b) The state department of education shall annually report, no later
 32 than January 15, to the senate and the house of representatives educa-
 33 tion committees, the number of scholarships awarded pursuant to this
 34 section during the previous school year, by school district and public
 35 charter school. Such report shall also include a fiscal note reflecting
 36 the amount of moneys expended for such scholarships.

37 (4) No student shall be eligible for more than three (3) years of a "mas-
 38 tery advancement" scholarship.

39 (5) School districts and public charter schools participating in the
 40 program established in section 33-1620, Idaho Code, are directed to collab-
 41 orate with publicly funded institutions of higher education in this state to
 42 assist students who seek to graduate from high school early, in enrolling
 43 in postsecondary or advanced placement courses held in high school. Such
 44 school districts, public charter schools and publicly funded institutions
 45 of higher education shall report to the state board of education and the sen-
 46 ate and the house of representatives education committees on any difficul-
 47 ties or obstacles they face in providing such assistance to students.

48 SECTION 6. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
 49 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
 50 ignated as Section 33-1624, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

1 33-1624. RULES. The state department of education is hereby directed
2 to promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this act. Such rules may
3 include a requirement that students successfully complete one (1) or more
4 standardized assessments approved by the state department of education. The
5 department shall work with school districts and public charter schools in
6 developing the rules authorized by this section.

7 SECTION 7. This act shall be null, void and of no force and effect on and
8 after July 1, 2016.